

## **MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS INFORMATION SUMMARY... *for your review***

**DATE:**

April 3, 2001

**SUBJECT:**

Recommendation for the Designation of the CANAMEX Corridor Within the MAG Region

**SUMMARY:**

On November 1, 2000, the MAG Regional Council approved a resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the MAG region. The recommended future designation included I-8, SR 85, and the ultimate Wickenburg Bypass. The resolution called for further consultation and review to identify a preferred route for the link from the SR 85 / I-10 junction to the Wickenburg Bypass. Additional consultation and consideration have now been completed and a resolution developed for the designation of the entire CANAMEX Corridor within the MAG region, to include I-8, SR 85, I-10, an alignment in the general vicinity of Wickenburg Road / Vulture Mine Road connecting to the Wickenburg Bypass, and the Wickenburg Bypass from its junction with Vulture Mine Road. Please refer to the attached draft resolution and map.

The draft resolution also stipulates, at the request of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), that the Wickenburg Road / Vulture Mine Road segment will not become eligible as a state route unless and until its right of way acquisition, design, construction and operation have been fully funded. Further, the resolution precludes the Sun Valley Parkway and Eagle Eye Road from designation as part of the CANAMEX Corridor. The November 1, 2000 Resolution already precludes routes within the urban nonattainment area for PM-10 from further consideration, eliminating, for example, Loops 101 and 303.

The CANAMEX Corridor study was initiated in late 1999 as a joint project by MAG and ADOT. Numerous Forums and public meetings have been held in the course of the project, starting with an Agency Stakeholder Forum in November 1999 at which a master list of fifteen alternative routes was short-listed to eight for further study. A set of ten evaluation criteria was also established at the November 1999 Forum. A consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates of Tucson, was hired by ADOT to assist in the compilation of evaluation data for the short-listed route options. That consultant report was completed in draft in July 2000. During consultation on the study findings, support was received from the public and local agencies for designation of the I-8, SR 85 and the Wickenburg Bypass as part of the CANAMEX Corridor. However, significant opposition to certain of the alternatives for the segment between the SR 85 / I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass was heard.

The resolution approved November 1, 2000 by the Regional Council accordingly recommended the future designation of I-8, SR 85 and the Wickenburg Bypass. The connecting segment between the SR 85 / I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass was to be specified following further review of alternatives, which, in response to comment from the public and local agencies, would be constrained to locations outside of the PM-10 nonattainment area. The three alternatives identified for further study for the connection were Eagle Eye Road (at the request of Maricopa County), Wickenburg Road/ Vulture Mine Road, and Sun Valley Parkway. The Regional Council also discussed limiting the review of alternatives to as short a period as possible, in view of agency and public needs for an expeditious decision on the recommendation for the corridor.

MAG since then has worked on a review of the alternatives with ADOT and, as the owner of the three facilities under consideration for this connection, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation

(MCDOT). An Agency Stakeholder Forum was held on December 14, 2000 in Buckeye. Additionally, at their request, meetings with representatives of local landowners or developers were held. Several interagency meetings were held. Comments received throughout this consultation indicated strong opposition from the Town of Buckeye and the public (landowners) to any designation of the Sun Valley Parkway as part of the CANAMEX Corridor. The Arizona State Land Department also opposed designation of the Sun Valley Parkway and recommended that one of the alternatives to the west be selected instead.

Support for designation of the Wickenburg Road / Vulture Mine Road alternative was received from the Town of Wickenburg. As noted above, the State Land Department would also support this route, as an alternative west of the Sun Valley Parkway. Support from one landowner in the vicinity of Eagle Eye Road for that alignment was also received. The Eagle Eye Road alternative was not however preferred by either MAG or ADOT given its added travel distance and its inconsistency with the November 1, 2000 MAG Regional Council resolution that included the Wickenburg Bypass. The Bureau of Land Management and Arizona Game and Fish Department both indicated potential environmental issues with all three alternatives.

Given the comments from the public and local agencies, designation of the Sun Valley Parkway would reasonably be expected to have "Major Community Impacts," which was one of the criteria established in November 1999 for the evaluation of the short-listed alternative routes. Similarly, Eagle Eye Road would not be feasible because of its excessive additional travel impacts. An alignment in the general vicinity of the existing Wickenburg Road/ Vulture Mine Road alternative would be the only practical alternative of the three considered. Detailed location /design/ environmental studies for the Wickenburg Road / Vulture Mine Road alternative can be conducted as funding permits and local planning needs dictate. The designation of the CANAMEX Corridor can be made at this time to include a general alignment along Wickenburg Road / Vulture Mine Road. Given current funding constraints, construction of the CANAMEX Corridor is expected to be a long term effort.

At the March 27, 2001 meeting of the MAG Transportation Review Committee (TRC), the representative for MCDOT indicated opposition to the resolution and a preference for further study of alternatives including the Sun Valley Parkway and Loop 303 before any recommendation for designation of the corridor was to be made. He also indicated however that should ADOT decide to fund the necessary upgrade of Wickenburg Road/ Vulture Mine Road to appropriate standards, MCDOT would not oppose it for designation as part of the CANAMEX Corridor. He noted that MCDOT had transmitted a letter to MAG regarding their opposition to the designation, but that letter had not been received by MAG staff involved in the project at the time of the meeting of the TRC. ADOT indicated that they had no funding available at this time for upgrades and would support further study; they abstained from the vote.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Agency, public and other stakeholder input has been received throughout the project including on the draft technical report and draft recommendations. In Phase I of the project, open houses and public meetings were held in Sun City West, Buckeye and Wickenburg. Significant opposition was voiced to consideration of Loop 303. Opposition to consideration of the Sun Valley Parkway was also voiced. Support for further study for a connection between the SR 85 / I-10 junction and the Wickenburg Bypass was noted.

In Phase II of the project, an Agency Forum was held in Buckeye on December 14, 2000, at which members of the public participated. Participants in the Forum were offered until January 5, 2001 to submit written comments. Meetings were also held in January and February with representatives of landowners for the Belmont and Douglas Ranch developments in the vicinity of Wickenburg Road. Significant opposition to consideration of the Sun Valley Parkway for designation of the CANAMEX Corridor was received. Limited support, from one local resident, was received for the Eagle Eye Road alternative. Support for the Wickenburg Road / Vulture Mine Road alternative was received.

**PROS & CONS:**

PROS: Approval of the report and the resolution eliminates uncertainty regarding the designation for local agencies, the public and other stakeholders. The approvals would as well represent a step in the process to designate the corridor in federal legislation and in the future possibly obtain federal funding for the recommended improvements.

CONS: Federal funding assistance may be limited for this category of projects.

**TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

TECHNICAL: The CANAMEX Corridor route within the MAG region has not been defined to date. The report recommendations and resolution reflect regional interests for the corridor.

POLICY: Development of the CANAMEX Corridor is consistent with the policy goals of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan.

**ACTION NEEDED:**

Recommend approving a resolution designating the CANAMEX Corridor within the MAG region.

**PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:**

Transportation Review Committee: At the March 27, 2001 meeting, the Transportation Review Committee recommended to approve a resolution for the designation of the CANAMEX Corridor within the MAG region. The vote passed with one no vote; Maricopa County opposed the resolution. ADOT abstained.

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair  
Phoenix: John Siefert for Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair  
ADOT: Chuck Eaton for Dan Lance  
Avondale: Michael Powell  
Buckeye: Joe Blanton  
Chandler: Bryan Patterson  
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell  
Gilbert: Tami Ryall  
Glendale: Jim Book  
Goodyear: Andrew Cooper for Cato Esquivel  
\* Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis

Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Tom Buick  
Mesa: Ron Krosting  
Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli for Tom Martinsen  
Peoria: David Moody  
RPTA: Ken Driggs  
Scottsdale: Michelle Korf for John C. Little  
\* Surprise: Ellis Perl  
\* Tempe: Glenn Kephart

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Regional Bicycle Task Force: Maureen Mageau-Decindis, RPTA for Eric Iwersen, Tempe  
\* Street Committee: Grant Anderson, Glendale  
ITS Committee: Jim Book

Pedestrian Working Group: Reed Kempton, Maricopa County Dept of Transportation  
Telecommunications Advisory Group: Jim Hull

\* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Regional Council: At the November 1, 2000 meeting, the Regional Council approved the MAG/ADOT CANAMEX report and the resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region with the understanding that the remainder of the route undetermined in Maricopa County be recommended within a target of twelve months. After extended discussion of the time period for the added review, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yes and 8 no.

#### MEMBERS ATTENDING

Phoenix: Mayor Skip Rimsza, Chairman  
\*Avondale: Mayor Ron Drake  
Buckeye: Mayor Dusty Hull  
\*Carefree: Mayor Edward C. Morgan  
\*Cave Creek: Mayor Vincent Francia  
Chandler: Mayor Jay Tibshraeny  
\*El Mirage: Mayor Steve Garza  
\*Fountain Hills: Mayor Sharon Morgan  
\*Gila Bend: Mayor Chuck Turner  
\*Gila River Indian Community: Governor  
Donald Antone  
Gilbert: Mayor Cynthia Dunham  
Glendale: Mayor Elaine Scruggs  
Goodyear: Mayor Bill Arnold  
\*Guadalupe: Councilmember Margarita Garcia  
Litchfield Park: Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas  
\*Maricopa County: Supervisor Andy  
Kunasek

Mesa: Mayor Keno Hawker  
Paradise Valley: Mayor Edward Lowry  
Peoria: Mayor John Keegan  
\*Queen Creek: Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr  
\*Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community: President Ivan Makil  
Scottsdale: Councilmember Robert  
Pettycrew for Mayor Mary Manross  
Surprise: Mayor Joan Shafer  
\*Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe  
Tolleson: Mayor Adolfo Gamez  
Wickenburg: Mayor Larry Roberts  
Youngtown: Mayor Eugene Russell  
ADOT: F. Rockne Arnett  
ADOT: Dallas Gant  
Citizens Transportation Oversight  
Committee: Bill Beyer

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Management Committee: At the October 18, 2000 meeting, the Management Committee recommended approving the MAG/ADOT CANAMEX report and the resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region with the understanding that the remainder of the route undetermined in Maricopa County be recommended within six months. The vote passed with one no vote (*italics*).

#### MEMBERS ATTENDING

Lloyd Harrell, Chandler, Chairman  
Avondale: Scott Schrader  
Buckeye: Joe Blanton  
\*Carefree: Jon Pearson  
Cave Creek: Usama Abujbarah  
El Mirage: Stuart Brackney  
\*Fountain Hills: Paul Nordin  
Gila Bend: Carl Stephani  
Gila River Indian Community: Urban Giff  
Gilbert: Kent Cooper  
Glendale: Martin Vanacour  
Goodyear: Jerene Watson for  
Stephen Cleveland  
Guadalupe: Mark Johnson  
\*Litchfield Park: Horatio Skeete  
Mesa: Jeff Martin for Mike Hutchinson

Paradise Valley: Tom Martinsen  
Peoria: Terry Ellis  
*Phoenix: Frank Fairbanks*  
Queen Creek: Joe LaFortune for  
Cynthia Seelhammer  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community: David Easchief  
Scottsdale: Roger Klingler for Jan Dolan  
Surprise: Bill Pupo  
Tempe: Shannon Wilhelmsen for John Greco  
Tolleson: Ralph Velez  
Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter  
\*Youngtown: Lloyce Robinson  
ADOT: Dick Wright for Mary Peters  
Maricopa County: Tom Buick for David Smith  
RPTA: Matt Ortega for Ken Driggs

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

Transportation Review Committee: At the October 6, 2000 meeting, the Transportation Review Committee unanimously recommended approving the MAG/ADOT CANAMEX report and approving the resolution for the future designation of the CANAMEX Corridor through the Maricopa region.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chairman  
ADOT: Chuck Eaton for Victor Mendez  
Avondale: William Bates  
Buckeye: Joe Blanton  
Chandler: Bryan Patterson  
\*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrel  
Gilbert: Tami Ryall  
Glendale: Jim Book  
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel

Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis  
Maricopa County: Tom Buick  
Mesa: Jeff Martin  
Paradise Valley: Tom Martinsen  
Peoria: David Moody  
Phoenix: Lynn Timmons for Tom Callow  
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth for Ken Driggs  
Scottsdale: John Little  
Surprise: Ellis Perl

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Regional Bicycle Task Force: Patrick  
McDermott, Chandler  
\*Street Committee: Gary Thomas, Gilbert  
ITS Committee: Jim Book

\*Pedestrian Working Group: Steve Hancock,  
Mesa for Mike Branham, Surprise

\* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

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